

10. Growth-Inducing Impacts of the Proposed Project

Pursuant to Sections 15126(d) and 15126.2(d) of the CEQA Guidelines, this section is provided to examine ways in which the Proposed Project could foster economic or population growth or the construction of additional housing, either directly or indirectly, in the surrounding environment. Also required is an assessment of other projects that would foster activities that could affect the environment, individually or cumulatively.

“Direct growth” would be induced by the creation of the facilities in the project boundaries and off-site project components that would directly accommodate a new population in the region (e.g., new housing units) or provide employment opportunities that require a new population to relocate into the region (e.g., new employment center). “Indirect growth” would be attributable to and stimulated by a project’s construction and/or operation. Indirect growth would be induced by either removing obstacles to population growth (e.g., expanding infrastructure such as utilities and roadways; expanding public services; changes in existing regulations pertaining to land development) and/or stimulating economic activity that attracts a new population.

To address this issue, potential growth-inducing effects are examined through analysis of the following questions:

- Would this project remove obstacles to growth, e.g., through the construction or extension of major infrastructure facilities that do not presently exist in the project area, or through changes in existing regulations pertaining to land development?
- Would this project result in the need to expand one or more public services to maintain desired levels of service?
- Would this project encourage or facilitate economic effects that could result in other activities that could significantly affect the environment?
- Would approval of this project involve some precedent-setting action that could encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment?
- Would this project create new housing units that would attract new population into the region?
- Would this project create employment opportunities that require a new population to locate into the region?

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This analysis does not assume that any growth-inducing effects are necessarily beneficial, detrimental, or of little significance to the environment. This issue is presented to provide additional information on ways in which this Project could contribute to significant changes in the environment, beyond the direct consequences of constructing and operating the Proposed Project examined in the preceding sections of this EIR.

Would this project remove obstacles to growth, e.g., through the construction or extension of major infrastructure facilities that do not presently exist in the project area, or through changes in existing regulations pertaining to land development?

Project implementation would not result in extension of major infrastructure to places currently unserved by such facilities. The modernization and interim housing sites are already developed as school facilities in mature residential neighborhoods and served by existing infrastructure such as water and sewer mains and electricity and natural gas services. The Proposed Project would not change the underlying land use of these school sites and would not change the existing regulations pertaining to land development.

Would this project result in the need to expand one or more public services to maintain desired levels of service?

The modernizations would improve fire safety features such as emergency systems and fire-life-safety features without increasing student capacity or building area. Although Westmont Elementary School (ES) and College View ES would receive students from Sun View ES and Pleasant View/Ocean View Preparatory Preschool after modernization, no facility capacity increase is necessary to house these students due to declining enrollment. Therefore, no increased service needs would result from the Proposed Project.

The student population at the two interim housing sites would increase until 2023/2024 school year. Therefore, the demands for public services such as police and fire would increase slightly due to increased student population and building area. However, such increases would be temporary and would cease upon completion of modernizations. As previously noted, the District is experiencing enrollment decline; therefore, the modernization campuses have adequate capacities to accommodate students from the interim housing campuses. The Proposed Project would not require any permanent increase in public services and would not result in the need to expand one or more public services to maintain desired level of service.

Would this project encourage or facilitate economic effects that could result in other activities that could significantly affect the environment?

Construction would generate short-term employment. However, considering the size and scale of the Proposed Project, it would not encourage or facilitate economic effects that could result in other activities that could affect the environment. It is anticipated that construction employment could be absorbed from the regional labor force and would not attract new workers into the city permanently. No increase in student enrollment or number of school staff or faculty would result from the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would not result in growth-inducing impacts in this regard.

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Would approval of this project involve some precedent-setting action that could encourage and facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment?

The Proposed Project involves improvements to existing school campuses, and there is no precedent-setting action that could encourage and/or facilitate other activities that could significantly affect the environment. No growth-inducing impact would occur in this regard.

Would this project create new housing units that would attract new population into the region?

The Proposed Project would not displace or create housing units that could attract new population into the region. The Proposed Project would accommodate student population in the existing District boundaries and would not involve any housing development. No growth-inducing impact would occur in this regard.

Would this project create employment opportunities that require a new population to locate into the region?

No increase in student enrollment would result from the Proposed Project, and the number of District staff and faculty would not increase. No new permanent employment opportunities would be created by the Proposed Project other than temporary construction-related employment. It is anticipated that construction employment could be absorbed from the regional labor force and would not attract new workers into the city permanently. No growth-inducing impact would occur in this regard.

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